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- Also, the package also includes important mortgage lending reforms—including a one-year increase in Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's conforming loan limits (from \$417,000 to \$625,500), and other changes that immediately help families facing foreclosure re-finance their loans and get the housing counseling they may need.

My only disappointment with the package was the failure to include an extension of unemployment benefits and a temporary increase in food stamps.

Honoring Judge Allsbrook

The House this week approved legislation naming Roanoke Rapids' Post Office in honor of the late Judge Richard Allsbrook.

Judge Allsbrook always gave everything he could to the community. He was a loyal friend who was genuinely interested in the lives of others. He loved Roanoke Rapids and its people.

By unanimous roll call vote, the House approved the legislation I offered naming Roanoke Rapids' Post Office at 725 Roanoke Avenue in honor of Judge Allsbrook. The legislation now moves on to the Senate where it is expected to win approval. Once approved in the Senate, the bill is expected to be signed into law by President Bush.

Judge Allsbrook served as a resident Superior Court Judge for the Sixth Judicial District for 22 years, retiring from the bench in 2000. He earned the reputation as a meticulous, fair and compassionate jurist.

As a lawyer I tried cases before Judge Allsbrook, and on one unusual occasion, Judge Allsbrook served on the jury of a case I was presiding over.

Judge Allsbrook was a very intellectual judge who was uncommonly understanding and patient with the people who came before him. I had enormous respect for him and this is a deserving honor.

Judge Allsbrook, who died October 27, 2007 at age 78, was a Halifax native and son of the late Sen. Julian Allsbrook. He was a graduate of Roanoke Rapids High School and earned an AB and law degree from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He served as second lieutenant in the U.S. Navy for four years.

Judge Allsbrook practiced law in Roanoke Rapids with his father in the firm of Allsbrook, Benton and Knott for 20 years before becoming a judge. He served as president of the Roanoke Rapids Kiwanis Club and as president of the Roanoke Rapids Chamber of Commerce. He received the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award and was honored with the Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award.

Judge Allbrook is survived by a daughter and son, Barbara Alison Allsbrook and Richard Brown Allsbrook, Jr., and by four grandsons.